DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 340 365 IR 053 857

AUTHOR Barnhart, Linda A.
TITLE The Librarian's Stereotyped Image in Mystery Novels, 1980-1990: Has the Image Changed?
PUB DATE Jun 91
NOTE 80p.; Master's Thesis, Kent State University.
PUB TYPE Dissertations/Theses - Masters Theses (042) -- Information Analyses (070)

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Cultural Images; Labeling (of Persons); Librarian Attitudes; *Librarians; Literature Reviews; Role Perception
IDENTIFIERS *Mysteries (Literature)

ABSTRACT

This research paper examines the portrayal of 35 librarians depicted in 24 adult mystery novels copyrighted between 1980 and 1990. Its main objective is to gauge how closely the portrayals of the librarians resemble or differ from the stereotype denounced in professional writings. In general, the librarians in these stories are fairly young and attractive; they dress nicely and no longer wear glasses. In contrast to the stereotyped image, these people are friendly, seem relaxed with the opposite sex, and are not controlled by a puritanical set of values. Many lack the eccentric bent which characterized their old-fashioned colleagues. They also seem to have less refinement. As professionals, these librarians hold interesting and responsible positions; but, they are not overly dedicated to their careers. Surprisingly, almost half of the librarians in these novels are men; several of them, however, still possess the effeminate traits associated with the male librarian's stereotyped portrayal. (Lists of the 24 mystery novels, 57 endnotes, 27 works cited, and 18 sources consulted are included.)
(Author/MAB)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED340365

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Office of Educational Research and Improvement
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

☐ This document has been reproduced as received from the person or organization originating it.

☐ Minor changes have been made to improve reproduction quality.

• Points of view or opinions stated in this document do not necessarily represent official OERI position or policy.

THE LIBRARIAN'S STEREOTYPED IMAGE IN MYSTERY NOVELS, 1980-1990: HAS THE IMAGE CHANGED?

A Master's Research Paper submitted to the
Kent State University School of Library Science
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree Master of Library Science

by

Linda Barnhart

June, 1991

IR053857

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

"PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY
Linda A. Barnhart

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)."

ABSTRACT

This research paper examined the portrayal of thirty-five librarians depicted in twenty-four adult, mystery novels copyrighted between 1980 and 1990. Its main objective was to gauge how closely the librarians resembled or differed from the stereotype denounced in professional writings.

In general, the librarians in these stories are fairly young and attractive; they dress nicely and no longer wear glasses. In contrast to the stereotyped image, these people are friendly, seem relaxed with the opposite sex, and are not controlled by a puritanical set of values. Many lack the eccentric bent which characterized their old-fashioned colleagues. They also seem to have less refinement. As professionals, these librarians hold interesting and responsible positions; but, they are not overly dedicated to their careers. Surprisingly, almost half of the librarians in these novels are men; several of them, however, still possess the effeminate traits associated with the male librarian's stereotyped portrayal.

12053657

Master's Research Paper by

Linda A. Barnhart

B.A., University of Akron, 1967

M.L.S., Kent State University, 1991

Approved by

Advisor Lois Buttlar Date 6-10-91

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTERS

I. INTRODUCTION 1

II. LITERATURE REVIEW 7

III. METHODOLOGY 18

IV. A DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS 24

V. SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS 45

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A LIBRARIAN PROFILE CODING SHEET 52

APPENDIX B CROSS REFERENCE BETWEEN LONG'S LIST OF STEREOTYPED IMAGES AND THE CODING SHEET 60

APPENDIX C CROSS REFERENCE BETWEEN THE CODING SHEET AND LONG'S LIST OF STEREOTYPED IMAGES 61

APPENDIX D STATISTICS TABLE: LIBRARIANS WHO DIFFERED FROM THE STEREOTYPED IMAGE . . 63

APPENDIX E READING LIST 65

ENDNOTES 67

WORKS CITED 71

SOURCES CONSULTED 73

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This paper is respectfully dedicated to Dr. Lois Buttlar, Assistant Professor, in the School of Library Science at Kent State University. Not only did she suggest the research topic but she also provided the necessary guidance to get the project under way. More importantly, her kindness and patience was most appreciated and will always be remembered.

CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTION

Background and Rationale

Stereotypes furnish mental pictures of people, professions, and lifestyles that one knows little about. To people outside of the medical profession, the word doctor conjures up a picture of a middle-aged man, dressed in white, wearing a stethoscope draped around his neck. The word hippie brings to mind a disheveled young man badly in need of a haircut. With the term school teacher comes the mental image of a somewhat stern-looking woman sitting behind a desk monitoring a roomful of children. Ask someone to describe a librarian and one will invariably learn that she is a rather plain-looking woman who wears "granny" glasses, orthopedic shoes and spends a good deal of her time shushing library patrons, especially the younger set.

Although the term stereotype tends to connote the depiction of negative traits, it actually provides an expedient way of organizing information. Pauline Wilson discusses this aspect in the first chapter of her book, Stereotypes and Status. She explicitly states:

> . . . stereotypes prevail because they are useful, even necessary. They are a way of organizing learning,

a way of organizing experiences with certain groups of people.[1]

Charles Goodrum, author of several mystery novels, points out an interesting reason for using stereotypes. The publishers of the 1970s, it seems, decreed that mysteries should be kept to 50,000 words or less. Hence, writers use stereotyped characters "just to save words painting their pictures."[2]

If stereotyping is the medium used by everyone to quickly categorize unfamiliar pieces of knowledge, why is the library profession so disturbed by the existence of a stereotyped librarian? Are its members so lacking in self-esteem that they can't tolerate being thought of as bookish, unfashionable, or plain-looking? Glancing over the titles of articles mentioned in Wilson's book, one would certainly think so. Among the citations in Appendix B are the following: "Can't Librarians Be Human Beings?" "Are Librarians Really Moldy?" "Librarians Are Dull, Uninteresting Creatures . . . ," and "The Librarian's Search for Status."[3] Although these articles were published before 1972, they do express a concern which has bothered the profession right up to the present day. In fact, Pauline Wilson's book, which most certainly examines the relationship between sterotyping and self-esteem, was published in 1982. Also, since 1985, the American Libraries journal has devoted its "Image" column to examining the portrayal of librarians in the media; and,

quite often, that column zeroes in on the antiquated, negative images which, supposedly, affect the librarian's psychological opinion of himself.

If a stereotyped portrayal adversely affects the librarian's self-esteem, the profession does have a legitimate reason for monitoring it. But, there are other, more pragmatic reasons for keeping watch as well. Gregg Sapp suggests that an unfavorable image impacts both the status of librarianship and the pay equity that accrues from the recognition of this status. He also feels that the patrons' adverse preconceptions of librarians could inhibit the quality of service which the library can offer them.[4] Mary Land points out that some research indicates that patrons may be avoiding the reference desk due to their negative concept of librarians.[5]

Obviously, even if self-esteem posed no problem, librarians need to be worried about their image if their financial well-being and the quality of their services are affected by it. But should attention focus on eliminating the old image, a goal apparent in many of the professional articles? Indeed, can the old stereotype be dispelled? Considering that articles addressing this subject have been quite evident since the 1930s, and considering that the stereotype has been etched into people's minds for many years, it seems reasonable to assume that eliminating the stereotype has been, and continues to be, an impossible task. Also, if this could

be done, wouldn't the old version just be replaced with a newer one since people will always develop stereotyped concepts about people and professions they know little about?

In 1962, Helen Hooven Santmyer wrote Ohio Town which describes her life in Xenia, Ohio. One chapter of this book centers on the town's library and the person who kept it operating smoothly in the early 1900s. This librarian, Miss McElwain, was:

> . . . stoop-shouldered and thin, with sharp hostile eyes behind flashing spectacles, her scant hair twisted in a tight bun on the crown of her head. She regarded children as the natural enemies of books; she was quick-tempered and sharp-tongued, and too often the provoker of tears[6] Every child who came in was on probation . . . .

This description, a true account, certainly resembles the stereotyped portrayal of the librarian who is criticized in today's library literature. But this librarian was a product of her times. Ultimately, the times changed but the stereotype remained. Yet, even though it lingers on, is it not reasonable to assume that, over the course of ninety or more years, it has gradually acquired some subtle differences? Considering that this is the age of the liberated woman, house-husbands, male nurses, female truck drivers, a variety of live-in arrangements, and a relaxed attitude towards sex, it seems plausible to expect that a new version of the stereotyped librarian must be emerging.

Perhaps, then, a better way to grapple with the

image problem is to, first, confirm the way librarians are being featured now, in the early 1990s. Once that is understood, the profession will have a concrete foundation on which it can develop more effective strategies for counteracting the negative aspects of its image.

Purpose and Limitations of the Research Study

The purpose of this research, then, is to examine the portrayal of librarians in current mystery stories in order to gauge how closely the librarian resembles or differs from the stereotype denounced in professional writings. Because fiction has always lent itself well to character analysis, it is an appropriate medium to use for evaluating the librarian's image. Within the realm of fiction, the mystery genre offers abundant opportunities for encountering stereotypes. In these stories, especially in the "whodunits," the author tends to give more attention to plot rather than to character development; consequently, he's more apt to assign stereotyped traits to his characters rather than to individualize them using elaborate descriptions.

Definition of Terms

The term librarian applies to anyone in the story who represents the profession in the mind of the reader. This person may play either a major or a minor role in the story; he may or may not have a library science degree; and, he may or may not be shown working in a library. Nevertheless, if the author identifies a character as

a librarian, then that person is going to be viewed as such by the reading audience and he, therefore, qualifies as a candidate for this study.

All the mysteries chosen for this study were "whodunits." The emphasis in this type of story is on solving the crime; the characters most often lack emotional and philosophical depth.

CHAPTER II.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Three objectives guided the literature search. First of all, an appreciable amount of reading needed to be done just to determine whether or not the issue of the stereotyped librarian was important enough to justify this project. Secondly, writings concerning the librarian's image in fiction needed to be examined in order to gain a perspective on the subject and in order to insure that the present study had no recent counterpart. Lastly, information was needed concerning the traits which comprised the stereotype both in the past and in the present. This last objective required no separate investigation since all articles read on the librarian's image invariably discussed specific traits.

An article by Rosalee McReynolds homed in on an issue significant to female librarians. Their limited numbers in administrative positions may, ironically, have some connection with the profession's persistent criticism of the old-fashioned spinster so embedded in the stereotype. By attacking this image, the profession has perpetuated the belief that there is "something distasteful about women growing old, being plain, never

marrying."[7] Subliminally, this concept may have a bearing on the sex discrimination practices which hinder the experienced, and hence older, female librarian.[8]

Mentioned earlier was Land's contention that knowledge of the stereotype may keep users from seeking help from the reference desk.[9] Penny Cowell reinforces this idea. She feels that the media's portrayal of the librarian as a "fussy old woman of either sex, myopic and repressed, brandishing or perhaps cowering behind a date stamp" effectively deters two-thirds of the population from ever using the library.[10] She also sees the stereotype as self-perpetuating. Recruits who fit the image tend to enter the profession; thus, the image is sustained rather than nullified.[11]

The impact of image on potential recruits also receives attention from Pauline Wilson in chapter five of her book.[12] She notes that assistants working in a library may choose to earn a professional degree because the undesirable stereotyped traits possessed by the professionals squares with their own personalities.[13] She also believes that potential recruits outside the library may accept or reject an inclination to librarianship depending on their affinity with the stereotype.[14]

Another article highlighting problems generated by an adverse image is one coauthored by Williams and Wood.[15] Impressed by the fact that librarians tended to be described as introverted in both literature and

research studies, they conducted an experiment to verify this. They discovered that the working class, whose contact with librarians was minimal, had a greater propensity than the other classes to believe all the stereotyped ideas surrounding the profession. The public, in general, views librarians as middle class. Coupling this belief with the working class's undisputed acceptance of negative, stereotyped traits makes libraries least attractive to a group who may well need its services the most.[16]

In searching for information about the librarian's image in fiction, four master's theses were located. Three, however, were immediately eliminated.[17] One concentrated on female librarians in novels written between 1920 and 1964. Although relevant, this work was bypassed because other writings on the same topic were more readily available. Another thesis was ruled out because it just focused on career novels. The third, which centered on short stories, was actually obtained through the interlibrary loan department; however, perhaps because it was printed from microform, it could barely be read.

The fourth master thesis couldn't have been more appropriate. This outstanding, comprehensive study, entitled "The Stereotyped Librarian as Portrayed in Modern Belles-Lettres," was written by Lucille Eileen Long in 1957 in order to partially satisfy Kent State University's requirements for the Master of Arts degree.[18] Taking

the point of view that the profession itself has contributed to the unfavorable image of the librarian,[19] she extracted from professional publications a list of characteristics which exemplified the stereotype. This list is quite detailed; and, because it will be used as a guide for analyzing mystery stories later on, it is presented in its entirety in Chapter III. In general, the stereotype defined by Long is quite similar to the stereotype that exists today: the librarian is unattractive, unfashionable, overly protective of library property, extremely bookish, et cetera.

Once her list was devised, Long proceeded to analyze the popular literature, the modern belles-lettres, in order to demonstrate that the stereotype was a viable reality. Her ultimate aim was to validate her contention that much of the public's misconception of the librarian and his work "can be laid at the feet of modern literature, the librarian's own tool."[20]

The scope of the study consisted of five chapters, each representing a literary style: novels, short stories, poetry, essays and orations, and drama. Since her focus was on documenting the existence of the stereotype, she considered works written within a sixty year time-frame. To qualify for examination, the works had to be written by an American author and the librarian depicted in the work also had to be American.

The methodology utilized by this author was

descriptive analysis. One hundred and thirty-five works, classified under the five literary styles, comprised the material for her investigation. Rather than explore each work extensively, she used each item in her list of characteristics as a subject heading. She then cited copious passages from relevant works which exemplified the stereotype. Because of the numerous works incorporated into her research, one cannot dispute her contention that the stereotype was well represented in the belles-lettres of her day.

In the conclusion of her thesis, Long presented some factual information about librarians. In 1952, ninety-two percent of them were women; a vocational test indicated that female librarians had little interest in male associations; librarians, in general, had a low interest in people. She pointed out that there was "just enough element of truth in the stereotype to make the whole concept plausible to the public."[21]

Julian Moynahan also examined fictional works, mainly novels, which featured a librarian.[22] He found that they were portrayed in two opposing ways. Either they were "shy and eccentric individuals of introvert character" or they were "energetic, ambitious people who work by the same kind of professional standards as, say, lawyers, architects, and educators do."[23] He has no problem with these contrasting representations. Libraries "should have room within them for both kinds

of library people."[24]

A more current study of the librarian's image in fiction was conducted by Sandra Olën in 1987.[25] She perused fifteen novels in order to determine whether there was "any recognition of the changes which have occurred in the profession during the last three decades."[26] In most of her selections, she found that both male and female librarians were portrayed negatively. Some dressed unattractively; others displayed unprofessional behavior or performed unprofessional duties. Except for one mystery, out of the two included in the study, no references were made to the use of automation in libraries. She does conclude, though, that:

> . . . although few stereotyped images of the librarian were found . . . , there was very little indication that the librarian is seen as vital, active and progressive. . . . With only a few exceptions, the librarian's and the library's image has not undergone as great a change in fiction as it has in fact.[27]

More related to this present research project is a 1978 article written by Mary Faith Pusey Pankin, entitled "Librarians in Mystery Stories."[28] Confining her study to twenty-six mysteries, of which only one was written later than 1975, she, too, explored the variations in the portrayal of male and female librarians. Males fared better then the women. Although often depicted as thieves, they were "somewhat more attractive, better educated, more professional, and more successful" than the females. Nevertheless, they still suffered "from having taken

up a 'feminine' vocation."[29]

Besides the emphasis on gender, this article is important because the rationale behind Pankin's choice of the mystery genre influenced the decision to narrow this research investigation to the same type of literature. According to her, "these books do not delve deeply into the characters;" instead, they "paint personalities in broad strokes."[30] Consequently, there is a greater chance of finding stereotypes in this particular type of fiction.

Also appearing in 1978 were two articles written by Jane Merrill Filstrup. Both entitled "The Shattered Calm: Libraries in Detective Fiction," they appeared in two successive issues of the Wilson Library Bulletin. The earlier work analyzed novels in which a librarian became the victim of a crime.[31] Although some of the librarians were attractive and outgoing, Filstrup concluded that, for the most part, these people were passive, lacked sex appeal and killing them off could be accomplished in a simplified manner. Their strength, knowledge, tended to be their undoing since they used it to unravel puzzles which the killer preferred to have unsolved.[32] It should be noted, that, except for one novel copyrighted in 1977, these books were published before 1970.

The second article examined mysteries in which the librarian operated as the detective.[33] Although several displayed the old stereotyped traits, overly methodical, somewhat eccentric, spinsterly and fastidious, others

manifested a more progressive personality. One librarian, described as a "dainty spinster" possessed a DLS degree. She was also "canned from two preceding high library posts for being too independent-minded." In addition, this dainty little lady awakened "the rutting instinct" in a professor.[34] Another librarian won the author's approval because she "refreshingly" was engaged in a premarital affair.[35] Another put her "fastidious librarian's training" to good use by tracking down the killer of her Vietnam-vet nephew "found dead with a packet of heroin under his pillow."[36] Clearly, these librarians, mainly products of novels issued in the 1970s, display more trendy characteristics, although the old image still survives.

Interest in the changing image of the librarian is obvious in Bourkoff and Wooldridge's article "The Image of Libraries and Librarians: Is It Changing?"[37] Using Dialog's online service, these authors retrieved one-hundred and forty-two citations found in three specifically requested newspapers, the New York Times, the Washington Post and the Los Angeles Times. The purpose of their investigation was to determine in what manner the library and the librarian were being represented by the media in the current "Information Age." In regard to the librarian, attention centered on what this person was doing and whether the image portrayed came through in a positive or negative way. For the most part,

librarians did convey a positive image. The library director was featured most often. Other librarians were identified as managers, disseminators of information, and occasionally as activists who were defending the library against censors or against those who wanted to close down a library facility. A few negative stories concerned librarians who backed down on censorship issues or who were unwilling to honor specific patron demands due to personal reasons or because these demands conflicted with library traditions.

A final article is important not only because it, too, looks at the changing image of the librarian but also because it makes some interesting comments about this new image. "Our Image in the 1980s," written by Norman D. Stevens, was published in 1988.[38] Just as Lucille Long turned to the profession's own literature in order to define the characteristics of the stereotype, so also does Stevens turn to the same sources in order to conduct his study.

Stevens' goal was to determine how the profession was viewing itself during the present decade. He selected three widely-read journals, American Libraries, Library Journal, and Wilson Library Bulletin, and examined their editorial policies, advertisements, and letters to the editor. To determine the editor's philosophy, Stevens perused the themes of the journal articles and gave special attention to the journals' covers, cartoons, features,

and photographs. He also conducted a telephone interview with each editor. Except for the discovery that only American Libraries consistently watched over the librarian's image, his findings are not surprising: the stereotyped image appeared most often in ads, a factor beyond the editor's control; the ads, photographs, and cartoons gradually began to depict a more stylish librarian; and, in general, the journals of the late 1980s portray librarians in a positive manner.

Stevens is somewhat disturbed by this new image. He notes that, since mid-1986, it has appeared so regularly in journals that it could be considered the profession's new stereotype. Invariably, this new librarian wears a white blouse or shirt, a jacket, and some sort of tie, depending on the librarian's sex. He most definitely is not wearing glasses, although they may be setting on a nearby table.[39] Stevens is not convinced that this new representation is desirable:

> We may be gradually losing one stereotype but we are certainly rapidly gaining another which is in many ways much less satisfactory especially because it leaves us indistinquishable from the members of other professions. Our old stereotype, especially in the classic female version, was unmistakably recognizable as a librarian at first glance. The new stereotype, whether female or male, may be a librarian, an information scientist, a computer engineer, or who knows what. One has to look carefully to find the glasses to be certain that it is, after all, a librarian and, therefore, somebody we can comfortably identify with.[40]

He concludes his article by pointing out that interest in dispelling the old stereotype comes and goes; and

he hopes that the old will never entirely disappear.

> To lose an issue that for so long has furnished our profession with so much anger, concern, enjoyment, and laughter--especially if it should come about as a result of the loss of identity threatened by the new stereotype--truly would be a shame.[41]

CHAPTER III.

METHODOLOGY

The method used in this project was content analysis. It consisted of examining the portrayal of thirty-five librarians depicted in twenty-four, adult, mystery novels (Appendix E) copyrighted between 1980 and 1990. After each reading, a Librarian Profile Coding Sheet was filled out for each librarian selected for the study. This form, designed as a questionnaire, can be found in Appendix A. Once all books were evaluated, the corresponding answers on each coding sheet were tallied. Chapter IV determines the significance of the tabulated data, and these findings ultimately serve as the documented evidence needed to summarize the way librarians are depicted in modern day mysteries. This summary, the essence of the entire project, is furnished in Chapter V.

Several resources were used to find relevant mysteries. Many of the articles mentioned earlier contained reference lists which identified applicable novels or specified authors noted for incorporating libraries or librarians into their stories. Occasionally, bibliographic works were cited and a few proved to be especially helpful since they actually grouped stories by setting or by

occupation. When all those resources were exhausted, trips were made to several public libraries in order to manually search the stacks. If a book's title gave any suggestion that a librarian might be lurking within its pages, it was carefully examined. Surprisingly, this bit of detective work uncovered a few usable novels which were either too new to be included in any of the bibliographies or else they had been omitted from them because the librarian's role was so minor.

In regard to the selection of books, no restriction was placed on the author's nationality or on the country in which the story occurs. It was decided that these factors would not interfere with the reader's interpretation of the librarian's portrayal. To accurately determine the extent to which the librarian resembled or differed from the stereotype, though, some guidelines were needed. First, the story's setting had to be relatively modern in order to spot any modern traits which the librarian might display. Secondly, because the librarian might have another role in the story besides that of a librarian, and because that other role might be given more attention than his occupational role, the librarian's identity as a librarian had to be emphasized, not just briefly mentioned. Also, if the librarian appeared in different places in the story, his identity as a librarian had to be reinforced in all those places. Thirdly, if the librarian's function was unimportant, the author had

to do more than just label him as a librarian. The author had to dress him up a bit with at least two or more descriptive characteristics. Lastly, the librarian could not be associated with any other profession which would skew his portrayal as a librarian. For example, if the librarian were also a priest or a rabbi, his religious affiliation would impact his behavior as a library representative.

As mentioned earlier, the coding sheet resembles a questionnaire. It consists of thirty-seven questions and each focuses on a specific trait indicative of the stereotyped librarian. The answers accompanying each question gauge the extent to which the librarian in the story displays that particular trait; in most cases, the first answer best fits the stereotyped image. To make the questions more meaningful, they are arranged under broader headings. One set draws out general information about the librarian and other sets assess his appearance, his personality, his professionalism, and his scholarship.

To develop a suitable list of traits for the questionnaire, notes were made as various articles were read. It finally became apparent that a list devised by Lucille Eileen Long in her "Belle-Lettres" thesis[42] not only encompassed most of the stereotyped images mentioned in other writings but also could serve as an excellent model for comparing the old image with the

new. Her list was applied to works expanding sixty years backward in time from 1957. Why not use the same list for the present study?

Long's list consisted of nine categories:

1. The librarian is an unattractive, almost eccentric, old maid without style, taste or charm.

2. Being a librarian is a very respectable vocation indicating high morals, virtue, and gentility.

3. Despite small salary, the librarian has professional pride in her calling and is devoted to her work.

4. The librarian is extremely scholarly and bookish in nature.

5. Her tasks are boring routine (sic) bound by strict rules and regulations.

6. The librarian is apt to think of the library's property as her own to protect even from the public.

7. She feels that there is a direct relationship between quiet and the proper use of the library facilities.

8. Little or no professional training is needed to be a librarian.

9. The librarian is a quiet, mild-dispositioned person unable to compete successfully in more cutthroat professions.

Despite its comprehensiveness, this list could not be used in its original form. Several categories embody more than one characteristic, and many of the characteristics demanded more elaborate definitions in order to avoid ambiguity. In addition, most of the traits mentioned in both the mysteries and the articles used in this project just did not fit neatly into Long's categories. For instance, in some writings the librarian

was considered unattractive but not necessarily eccentric; consequently, his appearance really could not be matched with Long's first category.

To overcome these difficulties, an evaluative tool was needed which would allow each trait to be featured independently--hence, the questionnaire. Each question embraces one trait named by Long in her nine categories. Occasionally, supplementary questions were added so that the trait could be analyzed in greater detail. Cross-references showing the relationship between Long's list and the questionnaire were also devised to insure that the new form did, indeed, contain all of Long's items. These constitute Appendix B and Appendix C. In addition, when applicable, each question on the coding sheet contains a reference to Long's categories.

Because the real thrust of this study is aimed at pinpointing differences between the librarian's former and current portrayals, questions concerning modern-day traits were also built into the questionnaire. The sources for these were culled from the articles which discussed the librarian's changing image and from the current mysteries used in this project.

Despite the laborious attempt to design questions which could be answered objectively, the librarian's treatment in a story frequently did not lend itself to a simple analysis. Often, an answer had to be based on clues deduced from the librarian's conversation, or

from comments made by other characters, or from minute descriptions furnished by the author. If there just was not enough information to be sure of a proper response, or if a question couldn't be answered because the trait wasn't mentioned at all, the default "Can not be determined" was marked. This turned out to be the item most checked. No book portrayed the librarian so vividly that all thirty-seven questions could be answered without resorting to it several times.

A few questions do not offer the default as a possible choice. Either the answer required no judgment to be made or else the default was just not an appropriate response. For instance, when the story said nothing about the librarian's race, he was assumed to be white since, traditionally, this has been the characteristic associated with the stereotyped librarian. Questions permitting assumed answers are noted as such beside the acceptable response.

Another point which must be made in regard to answering the questions is that the librarian frequently was not shown working in a library throughout the entire story; in a few cases, he was never in a library at all. As a result, questions were often answered based on his behavior outside the library setting. His identity as a library representative always remained intact, though, and he was always evaluated in that capacity.

CHAPTER IV.

A DISCUSSION OF THE FINDINGS

The same coding sheet used to evaluate each mystery story was also used to tabulate the combined responses. These figures have been entered on the sample form provided in Appendix A. What follows is a discussion of each question on the coding sheet, the findings connected with it, and the problems encountered when trying to arrive at the best answer. Although librarians in the various mysteries are frequently mentioned, no citation accompanies these remarks unless quoted matter is used. Both male and female librarians are usually referred to in masculine terms, i.e., masculine pronouns may indicate either sex.

Because the questionnaire was intended to reveal changes in the librarian's portrayal, the findings associated with each question include statistical information which highlights those differences. All percentages reflect the number of librarians who <u>did not</u> exhibit traits indicative of the stereotype; and, they have been rounded off to the nearest tenth. In order to clarify the calculation of a percentage, it is often followed by a number in parentheses. When given,

this figure represents the total number of librarians who were evaluated in a particular question. It can not be greater than thirty-five, and it excludes the librarians who were assigned the "Can not be determined" response. To introduce this figure, the letter N is used, e.g., N = 35. All statistics appear again in Appendix D, a table devised to facilitate the summary given in Chapter V.

General Information About the Librarians

The questions featured under this heading draw out basic facts about the librarian. Some questions examine stereotyped traits and some just clarify the librarian's portrayal.

The first question concerns the librarian's role in the story and was included just to give some idea about the amount of detail available for analyzing his portrayal. To qualify as a major character, the librarian had to significantly impact the development of the plot; otherwise, he was treated as a minor character or as a person who lived in the mind of someone else. Eleven librarians had major roles, twenty-one had minor roles, and three were remembered retrospectively. Contrary to what one might think, stereotyped traits often stood out more when a librarian had a small part. Since fewer details surrounded his characterization, his traits were more obvious and made a more pronounced impression.

The second question produced surprising results.

The expectation was that the majority of librarians would be women, the sex of the typical, stereotyped librarian. Although this did prove to be true, the nineteen females had a very slim lead over their sixteen male counterparts who, statistically, represented 45.7 percent of the thirty-five librarians.

Questions three and four were designed to test the stereotyped belief that a librarian is old. This necessitated nailing down a range of numbers that would suggest longevity. Neither Long nor anyone else mentioned in the literature review provided this detail, and even the mystery stories gave conflicting information. One librarian was "an old white bag"[43] at the age of forty-five, while another, a septuagenarian, had the energy of a middle-ager. To settle the matter, it was decided that the word <u>old</u> would apply to any librarian who was at least forty. As it turned out, most stories did not specify the librarian's age at all. Only twelve librarians had their ages stated; half of them fit the range designating the stereotype and half did not.

Since the third question uncovered the ages of so few librarians, and since a librarian's behavior sometimes contrasted with his chronological age, another approach was needed in order to determine whether a librarian was old or not. In question four, each of the thirty-five librarians was assigned to an age bracket based on his behavior. Three categories were set up: old, middle-aged,

and young; then, a list of characteristics was developed which seemed to fit the behavior associated with each of those three brackets. To be considered old, the librarian had to be portrayed as cranky, or overly fussy, or incapacitated due to his aging physical condition. Someone who acted silly or displayed an enormous amount of energy was probably classified as young. Also in this category was the librarian whose speech was loaded with slang or crude remarks. Anyone else was considered middle-aged, defined as the person who possessed old or young traits in moderation. Using this method, seven librarians fit the stereotype, twenty resembled middle-agers, and eight abounded with the optimism of youth. Eighty percent (N = 35) of the librarians, therefore, refuted the lingering belief that librarians are always old.

Although articles focusing on the librarian's image gave little attention to the topic of race or nationality, minority representation is an important issue in today's world. Most people probably would expect a librarian to be white; and, for question five, this was the answer marked for all librarians whose racial or ethnic credentials were not specified. This assumption resulted in thirty-one librarians being counted as Caucasian. Four librarians, 11.4 percent (N = 35), did differ from the usual portrayal: one was black and the other three were described as Indian, Japanese and Chinese. All of the librarians were American.

The typical librarian, according to Long, had little professional training. Question six looks at that trait in order to determine how many librarians were educated beyond the high school level. If information about the librarian's education was unavailable, the high school entry was marked. If a choice had to be made between two levels, the lower-level entry was selected. Although twenty librarians seemed to resemble the stereotype, fifteen did not. Six graduated from college, five had master's degrees, and four had doctoral degrees. Percentage wise, 42.9 percent (N = 35) had more than just a high school education.

Questions seven and eight were designed to highlight any unusual features concerning the librarian's job or his employment status. Only six librarians worked in special libraries; the rest were associated with academic or public libraries. Thirty librarians were currently employed by a library and five were not. One of the five owned a small museum, one was retired and not working, one was retired but worked now and then as a consultant, one was on leave in order to do historical investigation, and one had been on leave for ten years and could not be found. All librarians retained their professional identities in the stories even if they were no longer associated with a library. Since most librarians are viewed as either academic or school librarians, only 17.1 percent (N = 35) opposed this image. Regarding

the librarian's employment status, no percentage was computed because this topic has no relevance to any stereotyped beliefs. It was included in the questionnaire just to give a clearer picture of the librarian's connection with a library.

Appearance

If the public were asked to describe a librarian, many people would verify Long's contention that he is both unattractive and unfashionable. Most likely, these people are not readers of current mystery novels. Either these stories say very little about a librarian's appearance or they offer a noticeable contrast to the stereotyped portrayal.

To mark a librarian as either plain-looking or attractive in question nine, key words were used as determinants. If he looked like a cadaver or a scarecrow, or if he had bird-like features, he was not going to win a beauty contest. On the other hand, a person described as good-looking, pretty, or enticing was given a positive rating. The stories provided sufficient information about twenty-four librarians: nine merited the unattractive label and fifteen did not. In short, 62.5 percent of the qualifying librarians presented a nice appearance.

Despite the belief that librarians are out of touch with the latest fashions, none of the fifteen librarians evaluated in question ten reinforced this image; thus, 100 percent of the fifteen differed from the stereotype.

Many librarians were difficult to classify due to the meager descriptions given about their wardrobes. For example, an elderly, female librarian, as well as her elderly colleagues, wore floral print dresses and "too much lipstick or none at all."[44] She also had a lace handkerchief tucked into the sleeve of her sweater, reminding a detective of his grandmother. Wearing both a floral print dress and lipstick indicates an interest in fashion. But the detective who provided the librarian's description seemed to be making fun of her. If her wardrobe could not be considered fashionable, was it, then, unfashionable? The sweater and handkerchief tucked into the sleeve might indicate a lack of style. That classification, too, seemed inappropriate because of the interest in colorful clothes and lipstick. The dilemma over which answer best fit question ten was finally solved by making use of the third choice: her wardrobe was too individualized to be matched with either extremes. Ultimately, this response became part of the set of answers which did not fit the old-fashioned image.

The next four questions look at the librarian's stylishness in more detail. The first of these, question eleven, which appraises the suitability of the librarian's clothes for a business environment, was prompted by Stevens' concern that librarians were becoming indistinguishable from other professionals because everyone was dressing the same way.[45] Although he found much evidence of this

in professional journals, few mystery novels supported those findings, mainly because they said so little about the librarian's wardrobe. Only six librarians, out of the nine whose wardrobes were adequately described, fit Stevens' description. Due to the low representation of librarians, no percentage was calculated.

The remaining three questions which pertain to stylishness evaluate the librarian's footwear, hair style and glasses; all are frequently cited in articles addressing the librarian's stereotyped image. Except for brief, but favorable, descriptions of the shoes of three librarians, there was no information available to answer question twelve satifactorily. Even the thirteenth question, which focused on hair styles, drew only thirteen definite responses. Significantly, though, twelve of the thirteen librarians either wore their hair in a fashionable way, or, at the least, their style did not reflect the old-fashioned image. Along with the one librarian whose beard was down to his waist, 92.3 percent (N = 13) of this small group had fairly modern hair styles. Men who received approving marks were either totally bald or they had a full head of hair. Partially bald men, on the other hand, were considered to be on a par with the females who wore their hair in a bun. Only one person, a man, fell into this category.

Limited information also affected question fourteen's attempt to get details about the librarian's glasses.

If the librarian's appearance was described fairly well and no comments were made about his wearing glasses, he was marked as wearing none. If his looks were barely mentioned and nothing was said about his wearing glasses, he was assigned the "Can not be determined" response. Only two out of sixteen librarians wore old-fashioned glasses: one wore spectacles with wire-rims and the other wore rimless glasses. Four people wore regular glasses and ten wore none at all. Since glasses, in general, seem to be viewed negatively by critics of the librarian's stereotyped image, only the ten people without glasses were used in the statistical computation. The percentage for that group, came to 62.5 percent (N = 16).

Personal Traits

The next eleven questions examine the librarian's personality, values, and attitude towards sex and marriage. Particular emphasis is given to the last two topics because they reflect modern-day concerns.

Question fifteen, which analyzes the librarian's personality, offers two, mutually-exclusive answers which are indicative of the stereotype. The first, which characterizes a librarian as quiet, meek, or unemotional, fits Long's idea of the old-fashioned image. The second, which applies to librarians who appear stern or bossy, is well-documented in both journal articles and cartoons. Thirteen people fell into one of these two categories. Twenty-one others, though, counteracted this mousy or

cranky portrayal. Statistically, 61.8 percent of the thirty-four librarians were at least fairly pleasant and personable.

To be considered very refined, the stereotyped trait examined in question sixteen, the librarian had to consistently display tact, politeness, good manners, and admirable conduct. He also could use no slang. If he violated any of these restrictions in even a moderate way, ne was matched with the second response. A librarian who used crude speech or a heavy amount of slang was, of course, linked to the third choice. Although refinement in its most polished form may be one stereotyped trait worth preserving, only seven librarians consistently displayed that characteristic. Fifteen seemed refined most of the time, though; but six librarians were an insult to the profession. This reprehensible six, who were often alcoholics or scoundrels, and their fifteen better-behaved associates became the 75 percent (N = 28) who strayed from the old-fashioned ideal.

The library profession, historically, has always been thought of as a woman's profession and this assumption has led to the belief that male librarians possess feminine traits. Question seventeen's goal was to determine whether or not either sex exhibited behavior which conflicted with his genetic identity. Nine men definitely had feminine qualities. They were featured as overly fussy, "sissified," or the authors blatantly said that they were effeminate.

One female librarian was noted for her masculine behavior. She used crude language and only entered the profession because she could not find work as a fireman or as a longshoreman. All together, twenty-seven librarians, including the nine effeminate men, confirmed the femininity of the library profession. Only seven librarians, 20.6 percent (N = 34), challenged that idea; and, one of those was a woman.

In regard to librarians who might have had eccentric qualities, only nine of the thirty-one representatives displayed such tendencies. Some were excessively protective of library property: one "lived, slept, and ate Mark Twain;"[46] one was guided by her faith in astrology; and one had a great fear of perverts. Another was said to be "gaga," but, according to the person who mentioned the librarian's lunacy, "it doesn't notice so much in a librarian."[47] Offsetting these nine oddities in question eighteen were the twenty-two librarians who broke faith with the eccentric character identified by Long. They hold a 71 percent (N = 31) lead over their idiosyncratic colleagues.

The lack of depth in the portrayal of any character in these "whodunits" made the librarian's personal values difficult to assess. Seventeen librarians had to be excluded from participation in question nineteen. Only two of the remaining eighteen seemed to display the puritanical standards bound up with the old-fashioned

image: one was upset over the semi-nude pictures on magazine covers while another was disturbed because the men's dormitory rules were not being enforced, thereby encouraging women to spend the night. Six librarians definitely lacked integrity. They were either murderers, habitual liars, thieves, or excessively greedy. These six, plus ten librarians who seemed to have had acceptable values, comprise the group that appeared most unlike the stereotype. Almost 89 percent (N = 18) of the participating librarians belong to this group.

A persistent characteristic associated with librarians, especially the women, is that they are spinsters. Determining the extent to which this fit the librarians in these stories necessitated a certain amount of guesswork. When nothing specific was stated about the librarian's marital status, he was considered to be single if his behavior suggested it. For example, a minor character who flirted with a detective was judged to be single. Lacking sufficient clues, the librarian was matched with one of the other responses. Out of the twenty-seven librarians considered in question twenty, seven, 25.9 percent, were definitely not single.

Question twenty-one's intent was to see if the librarians were as opposed to marriage as critics of the old-fashioned image suggest. To be counted in this question, the librarian's portrayal had to be woven with details which strongly implied his outlook. Unless stated

otherwise, the married librarians were considered advocates of matrimony. One married man, though, was assigned to another response because he wed for the sake of money. Seventeen librarians were depicted well enough to learn that only one of them viewed marriage distastefully--and he was both married and gay. Most of the others were happily married, or wished to be married, or regretted not having married. Another two approved of others marrying but seemed unconcerned about their own prospects. All together, 94.1 percent (N = 17) of the librarians viewed marriage in a favorable way.

Because standards governing sexual conduct have changed dramatically since Long authored her thesis, it seems logical to conclude that even librarians in mystery stories would have to display more liberal attitudes if the authors hope to attract modern-day readers. The next six questions test this hypothesis.

Certainly, the findings connected with question twenty-two suggest that librarians haven't escaped being modernized. Although only thirteen could be evaluated, none of them believed that illicit affairs were immoral. Seven were intimately involved with the opposite sex, two were involved with the same sex, and the rest approved of their friends' liaisons.

Because some librarians approved of affairs but were not personally involved with anyone, their comfort level with the opposite sex was not always apparent.

Therefore, some of them could not be used in question twenty-three even though they played a part in the previous question. Out of the fifteen librarians evaluated, fourteen seemed to be relaxed in the company of their opposites. Statistically, this group equals 93.3 percent. The one who was ill at ease, a man, disliked all women. They reminded him of his wife whom he feared because she had the power to reveal his homosexuality.

In trying to assess the sex appeal of librarians, the subject of question twenty-four, the men were more difficult to gauge than the women. Usually, the women who attracted the men were shown in flirtatious situations or there was mention of two or more boyfriends. The men, though, often had to be judged on more subtle implications. If they did the flirting, or if they daydreamed about the opposite sex, they may have been considered appealing depending on other information provided in the story. Obviously, if they were engaged in an affair, they probably had sex appeal. As before, only a few librarians were portrayed in a way that made this trait evident. These few, however, fourteen librarians, all possessed sex appeal.

The entire thirty-five librarians were represented in the twenty-fifth question which addresses the librarian's sexual preference. Heterosexual was the assumed response if the person's sexuality could not be determined. Only three librarians, all homosexuals, differed from the

norm. This represents just an 8.6 percent deviation.

Professional Traits

Several traits mentioned by Long concerned the librarian's professional behavior and attitudes. In the works that she examined, many of the librarians performed boring tasks; nevertheless, they were proud to be associated with the profession and they were devoted to their work. Whether or not librarians in current mysteries performed similar duties and displayed similar attitudes was the topic explored in the following questions.

According to the responses associated with question twenty-six, librarians did everything from shelving books to running the entire library. Eight were shown just rearranging books, shuffling index cards or working at the circulation desk. Others had more demanding assignments. One was a children's librarian at a research facility; three were reference librarians; and nineteen held supervisory positions, serving as either directors or heads of various departments. Omitting the eight involved in mundane tasks and the four whose work could not be determined, twenty-three librarians, 74.2 percent (N = 31), held responsible, professional positions.

Whether the librarian's work was boring or challenging was not always a function of his job description. A director, for example, spent most of his time searching for coffee stains on the carpet. His work, then, seemed boring in spite of his authoritative position. All

together, ten librarians in question twenty-seven were shown engaged in monotonous tasks. Fifteen performed more stimulating duties. They worked on computers, searched for information on microform, and were specialists in various academic subjects. This group, statistically, represents 60 percent of the twenty-five librarians who qualified for evaluation.

The librarian's concern for noise was just not an issue in these stories. One librarian evidently didn't mind it because she was always yelling at students for minor infractions. Another could not "understand the academic search for silence."[48] Since the tolerance level of thirty-three librarians could not be identified, no percentage was computed for question twenty-eight.

Devotion to one's work and professional pride, the concern of question twenty-nine, are, of course, positive traits. If carried to extremes, though, these traits become characteristics associated with the stereotyped image. Six librarians exemplified this. One, for example, surreptitiously moved a valuable manuscript from one college library to his own because possessing it would enhance both his status and that of his library. The librarian who originally had control of the document murdered the thief in order to get it back. The other zealots who went overboard in their devotion displayed an eccentric concern for library property. Displaying a more sensible attitude were thirteen librarians who

took a healthy pride in their work without being consumed by it. They were aware of what was happening in the library and they seemed to enjoy their work. One noted that the job made him feel important; another, who worked at the New York Public Library, felt like he was in "library heaven, the big league."[49] Only one librarian disliked his job and just worked when his boss was around. This candidate for the unemployment lines and his thirteen sensible comrades serve as the 70 percent (N = 20) who did not overly identify with their occupation.

Helpful was an adjective frequently encountered when reading articles about the librarian's image; and, one writer believed it was a common trait.[50] To see if this was true, question thirty was inserted into the questionnaire. Only 11.1 percent of the librarians analyzed, two out of eighteen, confounded that belief. One didn't like to be interrupted when working on file cards and the other wasn't too cooperative with a detective. The majority of librarians, though, were willing to provide whatever assistance was needed.

Only nine librarians expressed any feelings about library property; consequently, there was not enough participation to compute meaningful statistics for question thirty-one. Six of the nine were overly protective, a characteristic of the stereotype image. Four of those six had also been tagged as eccentric due to their excessively protective attitude. One of the four kept

records on patrons who habitually returned books late or who behaved in a rowdy fashion; a second considered the theft of books almost as serious as the poisoning of an employee; a third, mentioned earlier, displayed near epileptic behavior whenever he spotted coffee stains on the carpet; and a fourth had a similar reaction when someone bled on her floor. "I won't have that," she yelled. "This is a library....People don't bleed here!"[51] The "normal librarians" demonstrated a concern for library materials because books were being defaced or because they were responsible for the safety of rare books or valuable documents.

According to Long, librarianship, as an honorable vocation, is a stereotyped concept.[52] In fact, she points out that "authors who wish to place a heroine in some respectable occupation usually establish the female in a library."[53] To determine how the profession was regarded in the mystery stories, question thirty-two looked into the motivations which prompted the librarian to chose his career. If he willingly selected this profession, he must have had a high regard for it; if he entered the profession because it was the least worst option available, he obviously wasn't impressed by its reputation. Unfortunately, details were available for only three librarians; but, at least, all were female, the sex mentioned by Long in the above quotation. Two librarians said they deliberately selected their profession and

one, the would-be longshoreman, could find no other work so she went on to college and ended up employed by a library.

Question thirty-three, which assessed the librarian's salary, couldn't be answered at all. No story mentioned the librarian's wages; nor did any suggest that he was living in poverty because of his occupational choice.

Out of the eighteen librarians who were described well enough for evaluation in question thirty-four, two-thirds of them could function in a cutthroat environment. These twelve people had energy, stability, and a friendly disposition. They voiced their concerns readily and appeared quite intelligent. Those who resembled the stereotype tended to be timid, unstable, eccentric, or too crabby to be effective workers in a highly competitive world.

Scholarship, General and Technical Knowledge

The three questions under this heading delve into the librarian's knowledge. The first two evolved from Long's list of stereotyped traits; the third measures the technical competency expected of librarians today.

Question thirty-five posed difficulties because it was hard to decide on the connotations associated with the words scholarly and bookish. Long stated that librarians with these qualities were capable of winning "the admiration and respect of the best minds in the community...."[54] and they could provide the specialized

information that "modern man" needed.[55] By using these definitions, a well-educated librarian could not be equated with the stereotype unless he was recognized for his erudition. Consequently, 70 percent of the twenty librarians analyzed did not measure up to the ideal presented by Long even though most of them appeared well-educated. Two, in this group of fourteen, actually seemed somewhat ignorant. One wrote books spiced with sex and dreamed of having them purchased by the movie industry. Another, who wrote a weekly newspaper column, was exceedingly narrow minded. Six librarians did stand out for their brilliance and they were in demand as lecturers and consultants.

Just as the preceding question analyzed the librarian's scholarly interests, question thirty-six tried to ascertain the librarian's awareness of real life issues. It was assumed that the person fitting the stereotyped image would be someone who was unaware of or uninterested in current problems. Only one librarian, out of twelve, seemed to have a solitary, scholarly interest. This was the person who had the neurotic fixation on Mark Twain. The other eleven, 91.7 percent, either had close friends whom they worried about or they demonstrated practical interests in subjects such as karate, travel, and the environment.

Lastly, the librarian's portrayal in the story was examined in order to appraise his computer skills. Although

a few librarians were shown working with microfilm, only five others displayed a knowledge of computers--not enough to prove that the age of the "hi-tech" librarian has arrived.

CHAPTER V.

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Is the librarian in modern mystery novels different from the stereotype that has haunted the profession for so many years? Surely, Chapter IV makes it clear that, in many ways, he is. Appendix D, a table, highlights the differences. This table lists each stereotyped trait which librarians are expected to display and then, by means of statistical data, notes the number of librarians who did not possess the trait. Both the traits and the statistics were fully discussed in Chapter IV.

The statistical information is grouped under three headings: the first shows the number of librarians who were portrayed well enough to determine whether or not they possessed a specific trait; the second shows the number of librarians who <u>did not</u> display the stereotyped trait; and the third shows that same number as a percentage. Even a cursory glance at this data proves that the librarians featured in the mysteries were not carbon copies of their stereotyped peers.

Three important points need to be mentioned in regard to the statistics shown in Appendix D. First, in many instances, less than half of the thirty-five

librarians could be used when evaluating a certain trait. Despite a limited number of participants, however, the statistics associated with the trait are meaningful because they are often noticeably skewed in one direction. Item thirteen is an example of this. Twelve out of thirteen librarians, 92.3 percent, had hair styles that were unrepresentative of the stereotyped image.

Secondly, a few of the traits built into the questionnaire, and ultimately listed in Appendix D, were never mentioned by Long and other critics of the librarian's image. Instead, they represent characteristics which are logically related to those stereotyped traits; and, they were included in order to reveal any modern-day features which the librarians might hold in common. For instance, the statistics given in item twenty-two clearly demonstrate a difference in attitude between the librarians in the mystery stories and their old-fashioned counterparts. None of the thirteen librarians included in this trait's evaluation opposed illicit affairs. Although this topic was not discussed in any of the literature it does bear a relationship to the stereotyped idea that a typical librarian has puritanical values (item nineteen) and, as intended, it does bring to light a modern-day attitude.

A third point, which is probably the most important of all, concerns the assumptions which can be made based on the statistics. The purpose of this project was to

examine modern mysteries in order to gauge how closely the librarian resembled or differed from the stereotype. The statistics indicate whether or not a change has occurred; they do not always reflect the nature of the change. So, even though most of the librarians did not wear their hair in an old-fashioned way, this does not mean that their hair styles were fashionable. Some of the librarians were bald; one librarian's hair was greasy and grimy. Neither of those conditions fits the stereotyped trait; but, at the same time, neither condition can exactly be called stylish.

Despite the last precaution, the statistics, along with the information gathered for the questionnaires, do allow many inferences to be made about the librarian's portrayal in today's mystery stories. The general picture that emerges from reading all twenty-four novels is that the librarian is a young or middle-aged person of either sex. He is attractive, dresses nicely, has a hair style that mirrors the current trends, and probably does not wear glasses. As a human being, this librarian is much more likeable than his outdated associates. He is more pleasant and outgoing; he also feels comfortable with the opposite sex and displays sex appeal. Despite his relaxed feelings and charm, however, he is not married, a factor that may reflect his age more than his preference for the single life. In concert with today's thinking, the librarian's behavior is not rigidly controlled by

a puritanical set of values. Unfortunately, this can translate into a loss of admirable standards. He sees nothing wrong with having an affair; and he may drink too much, lie, or steal.

On the professional level, the librarian remains true to his stereotyped image by being helpful. In contrast to that image, though, he holds an interesting, responsible library position and he is also qualified to work in a more cutthroat environment. The fact that he seems to enjoy his work but is not consumed by it may have a connection with his lack of old-fashioned scholarship. Although he is fairly well-educated, he does not direct all his energy into academic pursuits; thus, he has more time for his friends and he is more aware of real life issues.

One trait that refuses to go away is the male librarian's femininity. Due to the use of sensational material in current, popular literature, he may be saddled with that stereotyped image for quite some time. Perhaps, when librarians become recognized for their computer skills, the male librarian's negative portrayal will be offset by an appreciation for his technical knowledge and expertise.

Lamentably, the updated librarian lacks two special characteristics associated with the stereotype: eccentricity and refinement. The first gave a librarian real character; it made him stand out; it caused him to be remembered.

Now, he's just one of the crowd, a stereotyped professional among many other stereotyped professionals. The absence of the other trait, refinement, may be a serious cause for concern. The librarian too often laces his speech with slang and crude language; his conduct, at times, is downright appalling. Critics of the old-fashioned image need to monitor this unbecoming development. It would be ironic if, in sanctioning the old image, they failed to counteract the emergence of a new image that positions its members on the side of vulgarity.

Recommendations

The initial plan for this project was to just compile a list of traits indicative of the stereotype, read the books, mark the coding sheets, and count up the number of librarians who did or did not display a particular trait. Obviously, designing the plan was far simpler than carrying it out; nevertheless, the goals were achieved and the results do indicate that the old version of the stereotyped librarian is becoming a stranger in modern mystery stories. One disadvantage of the plan, though, was that it necessitated setting limits on the scope of the study.

By confining the project to mystery novels, no definitive statement can be made about the librarian's portrayal in current fiction. Before that can happen, studies similar to this one must be carried out in many other areas. Novels, short stories, plays, and television

shows are all potential candidates for further investigation; and, both children's stories and adult stories need to be included.

A topic that was tempting to pursue, but outside the scope of this project, was given life due to the presence of so many male librarians in the mystery stories. If they are as prominent in other fictional works as they were in these stories, contrasting the portrayals of male and female librarians might reveal some significant differences. In fact, two distinguishing features were noted while tallying the responses on the coding sheet: the men were better educated and the women were more friendly.

Since there is a possibility that the librarian's image is changing in the fictional realm, the image may be undergoing a change in the real world as well. Both Penny Cowell and Pauline Wilson noted in their early 1980 writings that library recruits have traits in common with the stereotype.[56] But, is this true in the 1990s? And, if it is, to what extent is it true? A questionnaire addressed to library science students just might refute Cowell and Wilson's contentions. Another topic, ripe for examination, concerns the public and its concept of librarians. Do people today still hold stereotyped views of librarians? If so, which traits stand out? Also, do the less-educated nonusers buy the stereotyped concepts more readily than regular library patrons, a

finding uncovered by Williams and Wood?[57]

If the profession had updated information derived from studies such as these, it might be able to develop strategies that would correct its real-life image problems. This, in turn, might very well enhance the librarian's self-esteem, improve his salary and advancement opportunities, and encourage more people to take advantage of the library's services. In addition, a less negative image could automatically affect the librarian's portrayal in fiction. After all, isn't art, to some extent, a mirror of real life and real-life people? If so, as the librarian's actual image changes for the better, his fictional image is bound to improve as well.

APPENDIX A

LIBRARIAN PROFILE CODING SHEET

General Information about the Book

Book Title _____

Author _____

Copyright Date _____

General Information about the Librarian

1. What is the librarian's Role in the Story?

_11__ Major character
_21__ Minor character
_ 3__ Mentioned by other characters; does not appear in the story

2. What is the librarian's sex?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_19__ Female
_16__ Male

3. What is the librarian's age?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 4__ 50 +
_ 2__ 40-49
_ 5__ 30-39
_ 1__ 20-29
_23__ Can not be determined

4. Which age bracket best fits the way the librarian?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 7__ Old
_20__ Middle-aged
_ 8__ Young

5. What is the librarian's race or ethnic background?

_31__ White (Assumed, unless stated otherwise)
_ 1__ Black
_ 2__ Oriental
_ 1__ Other

6. What is the librarian's highest level of education? (Related to Long's no. 8)

_20__ High school (Assumed, unless stated otherwise)
_ 0__ Community or Technical College
_ 6__ Four-year college
_ 5__ Master's level
_ 4__ Doctorate Level

7. The librarian is associated with which type of library?

_19__ Academic
_ 9__ Public
_ 1__ High school or Elementary
_ 6__ Special
_ 0__ Can not be determined

8. What is the librarian's employment status?

_30__ Employed at a library
_ 1__ Employed in a position unrelated to a library
_ 2__ Retired
_ 0__ Unemployed
_ 2__ On leave of absence
_ 0__ Can not be determined

Appearance

9. Which best fits the librarian's physical appearance? (Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 9__ Unattractive; plain-looking; homely
_ 7__ Fairly nice looking
_ 8__ Attractive; handsome
_11__ Can not be determined

10. Which best describes the librarian's wardrobe?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 0__ Unfashionable; dowdy; may be out of date
_13__ Fashionable; up-to-date; appropriate for the librarian's age
_ 2__ Inappropriate for work; too faddish; too casual; unsuitable for the person's age; too individualized to be matched with either extreme
_20__ Can not be determined

11. Would the librarian's attire be suitable for today's professional business environment?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 6__ Yes, male wears suit and tie; female wears fashionable suit, dress or accessories
_ 3__ No, wardrobe would be unacceptable
_26__ Can not be determined

12. Which best describes the librarian's footwear?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 0__ Selected for comfort; does not complement his wardrobe
_ 3__ Complements his attire or, at least, is suitable for the work place
_ 0__ Inappropriate for a professional job
_32__ Can not be determined

13. Which best describes the librarian's hair style?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 1__ Female wears hair in a bun; male is balding
_11__ Stylish; male may be totally bald
_ 1__ Inappropriate for a professional setting: too long, too flamboyant, or unkempt
_22__ Can not be determined

14. Does the librarian wear glasses?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 2__ Wears old-fashioned spectacles or unstylish regular glasses
_ 4__ Wears regular glasses
_ 0__ Wears contact lenses
_10__ Wears no glasses
_19__ Can not be determined

Personal Traits: Personality, Values, Attitude Towards Sex and Marriage

15. Which best describes the librarian's personality?
(Related to Long's no. 9)

_ 3__	Reserved, quiet, meek; displays little emotion
_10__	Lacks warmth; has sour disposition; bossy
_13__	Appears pleasant and personable
_ 8__	Bubbles with enthusiasm and energy; very pleasant and personable
_ 1__	Can not be determined

16. Which best characterizes the degree of the librarian's refinement?
(Related to Long's no. 2)

_ 7__	Very refined; tactful; behavior and speech always reflect good taste and manners
_15__	Behavior and speech usually indicate refinement; may occasionally use slang, profanity, or behave inappropriately
_ 6__	Behavior is frequently offensive; uses crude language
_ 7__	Can not be determined

17. Is the librarian portrayed in a feminine way?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_27__	Whether male or female, displays feminine traits
_ 7__	Whether male or female, seems more masculine than feminine
_ 1__	Can not be determined

18. Is the librarian's behavior controlled by any eccentric habits, interests, or beliefs?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 9__	Displays eccentric behavior
_22__	Behavior is reasonable
_ 4__	Can not be determined

19. Which best describes the librarian's virtue, integrity, and value system?
(Related to Long's no. 2)

_ 2__ Has puritanically high standards; may criticize those whose behavior conflicts with these standards
_10__ Appears to be guided by worthwhile principles
_ 6__ Value system is weak or nonexistent; possibly amoral
_17__ Can not be determined

20. Which best describes the librarian's marital status?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_20__ Single
_ 5__ Married
_ 2__ Divorced
_ 8__ Can not be determined

21. Which best describes the librarian's attitude towards marriage?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 1__ Opposed to it; may consider it repulsive
_ 2__ Unconcerned about it
_14__ Has a positive attitude (Includes the married librarians unless story suggests otherwise)
_18__ Can not be determined

22. Which best describes the librarian's attitude towards illicit affairs?
(Related to Long's no. 2)

_ 0__ Totally immoral; no exceptions
_ 0__ Considered wrong, but there are extenuating circumstances
_13__ Not considered immoral or improper
_22__ Can not be determined

23. How well does the librarian get along with the opposite sex?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 1__ Appears fearful, uneasy, or hostile
_14__ Feels comfortable
_ 0__ Prefers their company
_20__ Can not be determined

24. Does the librarian have sex appeal?
(Related to Long's no. 1)

_ 0__ Definitely not
_ 5__ Has moderate appeal
_ 9__ Most definitely
_ __
_21__ Can not be determined

25. What seems to be the librarian's sexual preference?

_32__ Heterosexual (Assumed, unless stated otherwise)
_ 0__ Bisexual
_ 3__ Homosexual

Professional Traits: Duties and Attitude

26. Which best describes the librarian's work or job title?
(Related to Long's no. 5)

_ 6__ Shelves books; performs general, miscellaneous duties
_ 2__ Works in the circulation department
_ 1__ Children's librarian
_ 3__ Reference librarian
_ 0__ Works in technical services
_19__ Has position of authority: director, assistant director; department head; supervisor
_ 4__ Can not be determined

27. Which best describes the nature of the librarian's tasks?
(Related to Long's no. 5)

_10__ Duties are boring, routine, and can be learned on the job
_15__ Duties are interesting, challenging, and suggest academic preparation
_10 __ Can not be determined

28. Which best describes the librarian's tolerance for noise in the library?
(Related to Long's no. 7)

_ 1__ Demands quiet at all times
_ 0__ Prefers silence but tolerates some noise
_ 1__ Undisturbed by noise
_33__ Can not be determined

29. What is the librarian's attitude towards his profession?
(Related to Long's no. 3)

_ 6__ Identifies totally with his work; entire life revolves around his profession
_13__ Takes pride in his profession; enjoys his work but is not consumed by it
_ 1__ Tolerates his job; does just enough to avoid being fired
_15__ Can not be determined

30. How helpful is this individual?

_ 7__ Goes out of his way to provide assistance
_ 9__ Appears helpful
_ 2__ Rarely volunteers his assistance
_17__ Can not be determined

31. What is the librarian's attitude towards library property?
(Related to Long's no. 6)

_ 6__ Guards the property as though it were his own; might withhold materials from patrons if they appear irresponsible
_ 3__ Expects people to take care of the library's property but doesn't stand guard over the materials
_ 0__ Unconcerned about the way people treat library property
_26__ Can not be determined

32. Did this person choose to be a librarian because it is a respectable vocation?
(Related to Long's no. 2)

_ 1__ No, qualified for nothing else
_ 2__ Yes, deliberately chose this profession
_32__ Can not be determined

33. Which best describes the librarian's salary?
(Related to Long's no. 3

_ 0__ Inadequate
_ 0__ Adequate
_35__ Can not be determined

34. Could the librarian compete in a cutthroat or highly competitive environment?
(Related to Long's no. 9)

_ 6__ No; lacks physical or emotional stamina; does not have the personality or temperament for such work
_12__ Yes; has the necessary energy, stability and personality
_17__ Can not be determined

Scholarship, General and Technical Knowledge

35. Which best describes the librarian's scholarship?
(Related to Long's no. 4)

_ 6__ Extremely scholarly; pedantic; bookish
_12__ Appears educated; displays scholarship
_ 2__ Appears somewhat ignorant
_15__ Can not be determined

36. Regarding real-life issues and problems, which best exemplifies the librarian's awareness and concern?
(Relates to Long's no. 4)

_ 0__ Has no interest in anything but knowledge derived from books
_ 1__ Unaware; unconcerned
_11__ Aware; interested
_23__ Can not be determined

37. What best describes the librarian's computer expertise?
(Related to Long's no. 8)

_ 0__ Has had no exposure to computers or may find them intimidating
_ 2__ Has some understanding; may have some experience
_ 3__ Has considerable knowledge and experience
_30__ Can not be determined

APPENDIX B

CROSS-REFERENCE BETWEEN LONG'S LIST
OF STEREOTYPED IMAGES AND THE CODING SHEET

Long's Categories	Trait	Coding Sheet Questions
1	Unattractive	9
	Eccentric	18
	Old	3,4
	Maid	2,17,20,21
	Lacks style, taste	10,11,12, 13,14
	Charm	23,24
2	Respectable vocation	32
	High morals, virtue	19,22
	Gentility	16
3	Low salary	33
	Professional pride and dedication	29
4	Scholarly, bookish	35,36
5	Boring, routine tasks	26,27
6	Protective of library property	31
7	Quiet and library use are directly related	28
8	Little/no professional training	6,37
9	Quiet, mild-dispositioned	15
	Can't compete in a cutthroat environment	34

APPENDIX C

CROSS-REFERENCE BETWEEN THE CODING SHEET AND LONG'S LIST OF STEREOTYPED IMAGES

GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE LIBRARIAN

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
1	Role in the story	--
2	Sex	1
3	Age	1
4	Age bracket	1
5	Race	--
6	Educational level	8
7	Library association	--
8	Employment status	--

APPEARANCE

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
9	Physical appearance	1
10	Wardrobe	1
11	Professional, business-world wardrobe	1
12	Footwear	1
13	Hair style	1
14	Glasses	1

PERSONAL TRAITS: PERSONALITY, VALUES, ATTITUDE TOWARDS SEX AND MARRIAGE

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
15	Personality	9
16	Refinement	2
17	Femininity	1
18	Eccentricity	1
19	Virtue, integrity value system	2
20	Marital status	1

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
21	Attitude towards sex and marriage	1
22	Attitude towards premarital sex	2
23	Relationship with opposite sex	1
24	Sex appeal	1
25	Sexual preference	--

PROFESSIONAL TRAITS: DUTIES AND ATTITUDE

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
26	Librarian's work	5
27	Nature of tasks	5
28	Tolerance for noise	7
29	Attitude towards profession	3
30	Helpfulness	--
31	Attitude towards library property	6
32	Librarianship as a respectable vocation	2
33	Salary	3
34	Ability to compete in cutthroat environment	9

SCHOLARSHIP, GENERAL AND TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Coding Sheet Question	Trait	Long's Category
35	Scholarship	4
36	Knowledge of real-life matters	4
37	Computer expertise	8

APPENDIX D

STATISTICS TABLE

LIBRARIANS WHO DIFFERED FROM THE STEREOTYPED IMAGE
(Arranged in the same numerical order as the coding sheet)

The Stereotyped Trait	Total Evaluated (Nos.)	Did Not Have Trait (Nos.)	Did Not Have Trait (%)
General Information			
1. Librarian's role in the story[a]	--	--	--
2. Female sex	35	16	45.7
3. Age: at least forty	12	6	50.0
4. Age bracket: old	35	28	80.0
5. Race: white	35	4	11.4
6. Limited education	35	15	42.9
7. Associated with public or academic library	35	6	17.1
8. Employment status[a]	--	--	--
Appearance			
9. Unattractive physical appearance	24	15	62.5
10. Unattractive wardrobe	15	15	100.0
11. Professional, business-world wardrobe	9	3	--[b]
12. Unfashionable footwear	3	3	--[b]
13. Old-fashioned hair style	13	12	92.3
14. Wears glasses	16	10	62.5
Personal Traits			
15. Disposition: meek or sour	34	21	61.8
16. Very refined	28	21	75.0
17. Possesses feminine traits	34	7	20.6
18. Eccentric	31	22	71.0
19. Has puritanical values	18	16	88.9
20. Single	27	7	25.9
21. Opposed to marriage	17	16	94.1
22. Condemns illicit affairs	13	13	100.0
23. Uneasy with opposite sex	15	14	93.3

The Stereotyped Trait	Total Evaluated (Nos.)	Did Not Have Trait (Nos.)	Did Not Have Trait (%)
Personal Traits			
24. No sex appeal	14	14	100.0
25. Heterosexual	35	3	8.6
Professional Traits			
26. Performs nonprofessional tasks	31	23	74.2
27. Performs routine, boring tasks	25	15	60.0
28. Dislikes noise	2	2	--[b]
29. Overly dedicated to his profession	20	14	70.0
30. Very willing to give assistance	18	2	11.1
31. Overly protective of library property	9	3	--[b]
32. Librarianship is a respectable vocation	3	1	--[b]
33. Low salary	0[c]	--	--
34. Unable to compete in a cutthroat environment	18	12	66.7
Scholarship, Knowledge			
35. Scholarly and/or bookish	20	14	70.0
36. Unaware/uninterested in real-life issues	12	11	91.7
37. Lacks computer skills	5	5	--[b]

[a]No stereotyped trait was analyzed.

[b]Since so few librarians were involved in this question, a percentage was not computed.

[c]No mystery story discussed this topic.

APPENDIX E

READING LIST

Barnard, Robert. The Case of the Missing Brontë. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983.

Blain, W. Edward. Passion Play. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1990.

Borthwick, J. S. The Student Body. New York: St. Martin's, 1986.

Cape, Tony. The Cambridge Theorem. New York: Doubleday, 1989.

Crider, Bill. Dying Voices. New York: St. Martin's, 1989.

Dean, S.F.X. By Frequent Anguish. New York: Walker, 1982.

Dexter, Colin. The Wench Is Dead. New York: St. Martin's, 1989.

Fisher, David C. Katie's Terror. New York: Morrow, 1982.

Fiske, Dorsey. Academic Murder. New York: St. Martin's, 1980.

Goodrum, Charles A. The Best Cellar. New York: St. Martin's, 1987.

Harriss, Will. The Bay Psalm Book Murder. New York: Walker, 1983.

Lewis, Roy Harley. Where Angels Fear to Tread. New York: St. Martin's, 1984.

MacLeod, Charlotte. Vane Pursuit. New York: Mysterious Press, 1989.

McInerny, Ralph. Second Vespers. New York: Vanguard Press, 1980.

Rathbone, Julian. A Spy of the Old School. New York: Pantheon Books, 1982.

Shaw, Howard. Death of a Don. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981.

Skom, Edith. The Mark Twain Murders. Tulsa: Council Oak Books, 1989.

Smith, Julie. Huckleberry Fiend. New York: Mysterious Press, 1987.

Sprinkle, Patricia Houck. Murder at Markham. New York: St. Martin's, 1988.

Story, William L. Final Thesis. New York: St. Martin's, 1989.

Swaim, Don. The H. L. Mencken Murder Case. New York: St. Martin's, 1988.

Valin, Jonathan. Final Notice. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1980.

White, Ned. The Very Bad Thing. New York: Viking Penguin, 1990.

Williams, David. Treasure Preserved. New York: St. Martin's, 1983.

ENDNOTES

1. Pauline Wilson, Stereotype and Status: Librarians in the United States (Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 1982), 4.

2. Charles A. Goodrum, "Writing the Library Whodunit: Murder and Intrigue Stalk the Werner-Bok Library," American Libraries (April 1977): 195.

3. Wilson, 203-207.

4. Gregg Sapp, "What the Librarian Didn't See in the Mirror: Aspects of the Professional Stereotype," Catholic Library World 58 (November/December 1986): 135.

5. Mary Land, "Librarians' Image and Users' Attitudes to Reference Interviews," Canadian Library Journal 45 (February 1988): 18.

6. Helen Hooven Santmyer, Ohio Town (New York: Harper & Row, 1984), 187-209.

7. Rosalee McReynolds, "A Heritage Dismissed," Library Journal 110 (November 1, 1985): 30.

8. Ibid.

9. Land, 18.

10. Penny Cowell, "Not All in the Mind: The Virile Profession," Library Review 29 (Autumn 1980): 167.

11. Ibid., 170.

12. Wilson, "Occupational Choice and the Stereotype," chap. in Stereotype ans Status, 131-157.

13. Ibid., 135.

14. Ibid., 136.

15. G. W. Williams and A. J. Wood, "The Image of the Librarian," New Library World 75, no. 890 (August 1974).

16. Ibid., 169.

17. Jane Robison Foster, "A Study of the Concept of Female Librarians as Revealed in Selected Novels Written Between 1920 and 1964," (M.A. thesis, Emory University, 1965); Virginia McNiel Speiden, "The Image of the Librarian as Seen in Eight Library Career Novels," (M.A. thesis, University of North Carolina, 1961); Margaret A. Nation, "The Librarian in the Short Story: An Analysis and Appraisal," (M.A. thesis, Florida State University, 1954).

18. Lucille Eileen Long, "The Stereotyped Librarian as Portrayed in Modern American Belles-Lettres," (M.A. thesis, Kent State University, 1957).

19. Ibid., 8.

20. Ibid., 5.

21. Long, 77-78, citing Alice I. Bryan, The Public Librarian (New York: Columbia University Press, 1952), 29; Vocational interests of Men and Women (Palo Alto, California: Stanford University Press, 1945), 163-168.

22. Julian Moynahan, "Libraries and Librarians: Novels and Novelists," American Libraries 5 (November 1974).

23. Ibid., 553.

24. Ibid.

25. Sandra Olën, "The Image of Librarians in Modern Fiction," Mousaion 5, no. 2 (1987).

26. Ibid., 48.

27. Ibid., 56.

28. Mary Faith Pusey Pankin, "Librarians in Mystery Stories," West Virginia Libraries 31 (Winter 1978).

29. Ibid., 16.

30. Ibid., 11.

31. Jane Merrill Filstrup, "The Shattered Calm: Librarians in Detective Fiction," Wilson Library Bulletin 53 (December 1978).

32. Ibid., 322.

33. Jane Merrill Filstrup, "The Shattered Calm: Librarians in Detective Fiction," Wilson Library Bulletin 53 (January 1979).

34. Ibid., 395.

35. Ibid., 394.

36. Ibid.

37. Vivienne R. Bourkoff and Julia Binder Wooldridge, "The Image of Libraries and Librarians: Is it Changing?" Public Library Quarterly 6 (Winter 1985).

38. Norman D. Stevens, "Our Image in the 1980s," Library Trends 36 (Spring 1988).

39. Ibid., 836.

40. Ibid.

41. Ibid., 849.

42. Long, 8-9.

43. W. Edward Blain, Passion Play (New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1990), 176.

44. Jonathan Valin, Final Notice (New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1980), 1, 31.

45. Stevens, 836.

46. Julie Smith, Huckleberry Fiend (New York: Mysterious Press, 1987), 93.

47. Robert Barnard, The Case of he Missing Brontë (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983), 52.

48. Howard Shaw, Death of a Don (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981), 14.

49. David E. Fisher, Katie's Terror (New York: Morrow, 1982), 34.

50. Linda Wallace, "The Image--and What You Can Do About It in the Year of the Librarian," American Libraries 20, no.1 (January 1989): 23.

51. Don Swaim, The H. L. Mencken Murder Case (New York: St. Martin's, 1988), 164.

52. Long, 8.

53. Ibid., 11.

54. Ibid., 13.

55. Ibid., 14.

56. Cowell, 170; Wilson, 135-136.

57. Williams and Wood, 169.

WORKS CITED

Barnard, Robert. The Case of the Missing Brontë. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1983.

Blain, W. Edward. Passion Play. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1990.

Bourkoff, Vivienne R., and Julia Binder Wooldridge. "The Image of Libraries and Librarians: Is it Changing?" Public Library Quarterly 6 (Winter 1985): 55-63.

Cowell, Penny. "Not All in the Mind: The Virile Profession." Library Review 29 (Autumn 1980): 167-175.

Filstrup, Jane Merrill. "The Shattered Calm: Librarians in Detective Fiction." Wilson Library Bulletin 53 (December 1978): 321-327.

Filstrup, Jane Merrill. "The Shattered Calm: Librarians in Detective Fiction." Wilson Library Bulletin 53 (January 1979): 392-398.

Fisher, David E. Katie's Terror. New York: Morrow, 1982.

Foster, Jane Robison. "A Study of the Concept of Female Librarians as Revealed in Selected Novels Written Between 1920 and 1964." M.A. thesis, Emory University, 1965.

Goodrum, Charles A. "Writing the Library Whodunit: Murder and Intrigue Stalk the Werner-Bok Library." American Libraries (April 1977): 194-196.

Land, Mary. "Librarians' Image and Users' Attitudes to Reference Interviews." Canadian Library Journal 45 (February 1988): 15-20.

Long, Lucille Eileen. "The Stereotyped Librarian as Portrayed in Modern American Belles-Lettres." M.A. thesis, Kent State University, 1957.

McReynolds, Rosalee. "A Heritage Dismissed." Library Journal 110 (November 1, 1985): 25-31.

Moynahan, Julian. "Libraries and Librarians: Novels and Novelists." American Libraries 5 (November 1974): 550-553.

Nation, Margaret A. "The Librarian in the Short Story: An Analysis and Appraisal." M.A. thesis, Florida State University, 1954.

Olën, Sandra. "The Image of Librarians in Modern Fiction." Mousaion 5, no.2 (1987): 48-57.

Pankin, Mary Faith Pusey. "Librarians in Mystery Stories." West Virginia Libraries 31 (Winter 1978): 11-18.

Santmyer, Helen Hooven. Ohio Town. New York: Harper & Row, 1984.

Sapp, Gregg. "What the Librarian Didn't See in the Mirror: Aspects of the Professional Stereotype." Catholic Library World 58 (November/December 1986): 135 136.

Shaw, Howard. Death of a Don. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1981.

Smith, Julie. Huckleberry Fiend. New York: Mysterious Press, 1987.

Speiden, Virginia NcNiel. "The Image of the Librarian as Seen in Eight Career Novels." M.A. thesis, University of North Carolina, 1961.

Stevens, Norman D. "Our Image in the 1980s." Library Trends 36 (Spring 1988): 825-851.

Swaim, Don. The H. L. Mencken Murder Case. New York: St. Martin's, 1988.

Valin, Jonathan. Final Notice. New York: Dodd, Mead & Co., 1980.

Wallace, Linda. "The Image--and What You Can Do About It in the Year of the Librarian." American Libraries 20, no.1 (January 1989): 22-25.

Williams, G. W., and A. J. Wood. "The Image of the Librarian." New Library World 75, no. 890 (August 1974): 168-170.

Wilson, Pauline. Stereotype and Status: Librarians in the United States. Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 1982.

SOURCES CONSULTED

Biagini, Mary K. A Handbook of Contemporary Fiction for Public Libraries and School Libraries. Metuchen, N.J.: Scarecrow Press, 1989.

Drew, Bernard A. Heroines, Series and Sequels: A Bibliography of Women Series Characters. New York: Garland Publishing, 1989.

Fiction Catalog. New York: H. W. Wilson Company, 1976-.

Hagen, Ordean. Who Done It?: A Guide to Detective, Mystery and Suspense Fiction. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1969.

Hartman, Donald K. and Jerome Drost, comp. Themes and Settings in Fiction: A Bibliography of Bibliographies. New York: Greenwood Press, 1988.

Library and Information Science Abstracts. London: Library Association, 1980-.

Library Literature: An Index to Library and Information Science. New York: H. W. Wilson, 1974-.

Magnotti, Shirley. Master's Theses in Library Science: 1960-1969. Troy, N.Y.: Whitston Publishing Company, 1975.

Masters Abstracts International. Ann Arbor, MI.: University Microfilms International, 1980-.

Menendez, Albert J. The Subject is Murder: A Selective Subject Guide to Mystery Fiction. New York: Garland Publishing, 1986.

Olderr, Steven. Mystery Index: Subjects, Settings, and Sleuths of 10,000 Titles. Chicago: American Library Association, 1987.

Oleksiw, Susan. A Reader's Guide to the Classic British Mystery. Boston: G. K. Hall & Co., 1988.

Reilly, John M., ed. Twentieth-Century Crime and Mystery Writers. 2d ed. New York: St. Martin's, 1985.

Rosenberg, Betty. Genreflecting: A Guide to Reading Interests in Genre Fiction. Littleton, Co.: Libraries Unlimited, 1986.

Skene Melvin, David and Ann Skene Melvin, comp. Crime, Detective, Espionage, Mystery, and Thriller Fiction and Film: A Comprehensive Bibliography of Critical Writing through 1979. Westport, CT.: Greenwood Press, 1980.

Smith, Myron J., Jr. Cloak and Dagger Fiction. 2d ed. Santa Barbara, Ca.: ABC-CLIO, 1982.

Wertsman, Vladimir F. The Librarian's Companion: A Handbook of Thousands of Facts and Figures on Libraries / Librarians, Books / Newspapers, Publishers / Booksellers. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987.

Wynn, Dilys. Murder Ink: The Mystery Reader's Companion. New York: Workman Publishing, 1977.